

**PHYSICAL LAYER INFORMATION TRANSLATION SYSTEM AND METHOD AND
COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE EMPLOYING THE SAME**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A translation system and related method for use with a communications device having a physical layer system and a data link layer system with a media access control layer subsystem and coupleable to a communications network. In one embodiment, the translation system includes a generator that constructs a piggyback packet containing characteristics associated with the physical layer system. The translation system also includes a correlator, coupled to the generator, that receives the piggyback packet and extracts information about the physical layer system. The generator and correlator transmit and receive the piggyback packet without substantially modifying the media access control layer subsystem.